

LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 6, 2019

Time: 6:30PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:36 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. Doherty, Mr. Hoey, Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin, Mr. Nutter and Mayor Samaras. Mr. Descoteaux was absent.

3. MINUTES

3.I. Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the minutes and to place them on file; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

4.I. Permission to Enter: February 6, 2019

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Ms. Martin. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

5. MEMORIALS

5.I. Memorial - Milinazzo

Mary Jane (Bakey) Milinazzo, mother of James Milinazzo, Lowell City Council and Beth Moffett, School Nurse Coordinator



5.II. Memorial - Byrne

Ann Marie (Daley) Byrne, retired Morey School Teacher.

5.III. Memorial- Cote

Gloria B. Cote, sister-law of Executive Secretary for Curriculum and Instruction, Nancy Cote

5.IV. Memorial - Wais

Heiner (Hank) Wais, a retired Stoklosa School Teacher.

5.V. Memorial - Duda

Patricia A. "Tricia" Duda, mother of Family Resource Center Coordinator, Rebecca Duda.

6. MOTIONS

6.I. [By Gerard Nutter And Connie Martin]: Requesting that the Committee enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the Committee's contracts with both the Acting Superintendent of Schools and the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.

Meghan Moore and Beth Tripathi spoke to the Committee regarding the above motion.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Martin. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

6.II. [By Gerard Nutter]: School Committee direct Superintendent to add 3 plumbers plus 2 HVAC Tech for the District in the 2019/2020 budget.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 2 yeas, 4 nays, 1 absent FAILS

6.III. [By Robert Hoey]: Motion to post the Superintendent's Position immediately.

Committee members asked to wait until the conclusion of the Executive Session and then a recommendation will be made to enter into a Superintendent's search immediately.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

6.IV. [By Robert Hoey]: Request the Superintendent works with Lowell High School administration to develop a report regarding the usage of cell phones at LHS.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED



6.V. [By Gerard Nutter]: Request the Mayor have the City Solicitor schedule an Executive Session to update the School Committee on Election Lawsuit Status. Four Individual members are named, so is the entire body called School Committee yet the City Lawyer and City Council has excluded these named people and the entire School Committee from the entire legal process.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

6.VI. [By Gerard Nutter]: School Committee request 2019/2020 budget include some form of rotating Library Aides in our Elementary/Middle Schools and restore a Producer role for Television Studio and direct program to include training on new Van.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Martin. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

6.VII. [By Gerard Nutter]: School Committee request Superintendent to bring forward a budget presentation and meeting schedule for the 2019/2020 school year.

Mr. Nutter requested that a Finance Subcommittee meeting take place prior to the March 20, 2019 School Committee meeting regarding the 2019/2020 Budget.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

6.VIII. [By Gerard Nutter]: School Committee vote to keep and fully fund General / Labor Counsel Position in 2019/2020 budget and schedule an Executive Session on a quarterly basis for regular updates on all legal matters.

It was asked that this motion be deferred to the next Lowell School Committee meeting due to Mr. Descoteaux absence.

6.IX. [By Gerard Nutter]: School Committee vote to direct Superintendent to NOT fund Adult Education as part of the School Budget for the 2019/2020 School Year. In addition to the estimated 630,000 in salaries not credited toward NET School Spending and not required by law, the district is charged another \$27K for Parking against NET School Spending.

Betty McKiernan, Director of Adult Education spoke to the Committee regarding the above motion.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 1 yea, 5 nays, 1 absent FAILS

6.X. [By Gerard Nutter]: School Committee vote to change the district to a 3 Zone Transportation / Placement system effective for the 2019/2020 and begin notifying all stakeholders.

The following people registered and spoke about the above motion:

Ty Chum
Darcy Boyer
Monica Luneburg
Nicole Bernier



Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey.

Mr. Nutter made a substitute motion for the School Committee to proceed to investigate rezoning the City for the 2020/2021 school year and to have the City Solicitor's Office review the information. Also, request the Superintendent take the necessary steps to draft a legal agreement between the Lowell School Committee and Dr. Bertsimas and his company regarding working with the district to save on student bussing and transportation costs; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 5 yeas, 1 nay, 1 absent APPROVED

7. SUBCOMMITTEES

7.I. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting: Report and Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, January 28, 2019 [Connie Martin, Chairperson]

Ms. Martin Chairperson of the Personnel Subcommittee informed the Committee that the purpose of Subcommittee meeting was to get input from the public as the district begins the search process for the next Superintendent. The public and Committee expressed their expectations in terms of qualifications, job description and public process.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

7.II. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting: Report and Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, January 30, 2019 [Connie Martin, Chairperson]

Ms. Martin Chairperson of the Personnel Subcommittee informed the Committee that Sandy Stapczynski, President of Human Resources Services, Inc. (HRS), spoke to the Subcommittee regarding the audit findings. The audit reviewed the following:

- Current and New Proposed HR Organization
- Review of Current HR Organization
- Proposed Adjustments to HR Organization
- Staffing
- Human Resource Director
- Assistant Human Resource Director
- HR Executive Assistant
- HR Administrative Support Specialist
- Human Relations Assistant (new)
- Communications
- On-Line Communications
- Develop the HR Role at Each School
- Workflow and Technology
- Hiring, Diversity and Succession Planning
- Conduct Exit Interviews
- Training



- Pay and Classification System including Job Descriptions
- Performance System for Certain Groups of Employees Still Needed
- Employee Safety in the Workplace

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the recommendation from the administration and move forward with the LEAP Network proposal and to immediately begin the process of recruiting for a new Human Resources Director for the Lowell Public Schools; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

8.I. Response to Robert Hoey's Motion Of 01.16.19 Regarding How Many 51As Have Been Filed.

Ingrid Markman, District Social Worker provided a report to the Committee informing them that between November 27, 2017 and February 2, 2018 there were 127 51 As filled by school social workers across the district. Between, September 1, 2018 and December 30, 2018, there were 179 51 As filled by social workers across the district. All staff in the Lowell Public Schools are mandated reporters.

Mr. Hoey asked for more information regarding schools were the 51 As are being filed and wanted to know who is paying for the ambulances.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.II. Emergency Impact Aid Grant

Rosa Segarra-Morales, District Support Specialist and Homeless Liaison informed the Committee that the Lowell Public Schools was awarded \$13,085 in funding to be utilized by August 31, 2019. Funds will be used to provide tutoring supports, as well as summer supports for homeless students in need of service in the district.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.III. STEM Academy Expansion Plan

Acting Superintendent Durkin provided a report to the Committee that informed them of the steps taken to date to research options for the new anticipated classrooms that will be required at the STEM Academy @ Rogers School for the 2019-2020 school year. The report also outlines a proposed plan for addressing the need to add classrooms.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED



8.IV. Business Office Update

Interim Assistant Superintendent Turner provided a report to the Committee that informed them that budgets should be built with real dollars. This budget was built with offsets rather than real dollars. She also spoke about the Emergency Relief grant that is listed as additional revenue on all of the reconciliations, yet it is not really FY19 revenue. The grant was given to the district in FY19, but treated by the government as an FY18 grant. To avoid these funds being tunneled to the City's free cash, Interim Assistant Superintendent Turner worked with Jay Sullivan and state auditors to backdate to the FY18 year and move the Out of District tuition costs from the Circuit Breaker line to hit the FY18 grant instead. Interim Assistant Superintendent Turner also stated that some of the accounts that she wanted to reduce have already been spent since the last presentation and an adjustment will be made to the available amount in Munis. The report also included projections for sick leave buy back, transportation and out of district tuition. The report included a schedule regarding the hiring of the Human Resources Director, as well as the process improvements with retirements.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.V. Response to Gerard Nutter's Motion of 04.04.19 Regarding Marijuana Screening.

Attorney James Hall provided a report to the Committee informing them that he has reviewed both changes in state law and the School Department's drug testing procedures for new employees pursuant to the School Committee's motion pertaining to testing for marijuana use. Presently, the School Department is processing drug screening requests for new employees through the City's contract. Attorney Hall spoke with Human Resources at City Hall and was advised that its present screening procedures are under review. Attorney Hall recommended to the Committee that they delay action on this matter until the City has completed its review of the legality and/or appropriateness of testing for marijuana in employment screenings. He determined that there will be no value in continuing to administer screenings for marijuana use.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.VI. Response to Gerard Nutter's Motion of 09/19/18 Regarding The Feasibility Of Eliminating February/April Vacation.

Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment provided a report informing the Committee that the Lowell Public School created a Blackboard Connect Ed. survey regarding eliminating February and April vacation and creating a vacation week in March. The survey had 1,347 families respond 40% in favor and 1,988 families respond 60% not it favor.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED



8.VII. Enrollment Figures

The district enrollment report provided to the Committee showed the breakdown by school and grade through February 1, 2019.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.VIII. Report On Motions

Acting Superintendent Jeannine Durkin provided the monthly report on the status of outstanding motions and asked the Committee if they had any concerns or questions.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VIII as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.IX. FY19/20 Recommended Budget Calendar

This report was deferred to the next Lowell School Committee meeting.

8.X. 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Dates; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

8.XI. 2019-2020 School Calendar

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 School Calendar; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Vote To Accept Grant Award Of \$ 42,000 To Henry J. Robinson School From Summer Star Foundation For Nature, Art And Humanity, Inc.

Bridget Dowling, Robinson School Principal requested permission for an out of state field trip to Yellowstone National Park. Summer Start Foundation has generously provided a grant to send twenty (20) 7th grade students and five (5) chaperones to Yellowstone National Park to participate in Expedition Yellowstone from April 13, 2019 through April 20, 2019.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the grant award of \$ 42,000 to the Henry J. Robinson School from Summer Star Foundation for Nature, Art and Humanity, Inc.; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED



9.II. Budget Transfer

Department:	SCHOOLS				
TRANSFER TO:					
Account #				Description	Amount
Org.	Object	Project	DESE Function		
5	•	,			
99341203	512204		1200	Asst Supt - Finance/Operations	\$ 7,725.
99341230	512902		1400	Clerical Staff - Admin. Office	\$ 12,075.
99341201	512917		2450	Media Technology Support Liais	\$ 25,000.
99041103	512902		2200	LHS School Clerk	\$ 80,000.
95010103	512958		2300	Shaughnessy Paraprofessional	\$ 40,000.
97510106	512903		2300	McAuliffe SPED Teacher	\$ 58,945.
90110106	512903		2300	Cardinal SPED Teacher	\$ 58,945.
95510106	512903		2300	Washington SPED Teacher	\$ 58,945.
99320106	512137		2300	Evaluation Team Chairpersons	\$ 90,418.
90110106	512958		2300	Cardinal SPED Paraprofessional	\$ 4,297.
99032003	512903		2600	LHS Video Production Teacher	\$ 25,880.
99310008	571801		2350	Teacher Acad. Incentive Pmts.	\$ 31,000.
99035003	512105		2700	LHS Guidance Counselor	\$ 85,000.
99310451	512135		2800	Social Workers	\$ 182,640.
99339004	512112		3100	District Support Specialists	\$ 6,914.
99341215	513001		1400	Overtime - Clerical	\$ 24,000.
99348012	577615		3300	Transportation - Regular Educ.	\$ 424,059.
99320116	577615		3300	SPED Transportation	\$ 1,022,030.
99031003	512113		3500	LHS Coaches - Interscholastic	\$ 12,500.
99347103	512906		4000	Director of Operations/Mainten	\$ 1,760.
99047103	512960		4000	LHS Custodian	\$ 306,692.
99347103	513002		4000	Overtime - Use of Buildings	\$ 70,000.
99041403	512915		4000	LHS Security Guard	\$ 50,000.
99347112	575370		4000	Utility - Telephone	\$ 125,000.
99347106	530002		4000	Maintenance Contracted Svs	\$ 30,000.
99345006	563600		5200	Employee Health Insurance	\$ 801,665.
99310301	512907		5100	Sick Leave Buy Back	\$ 400,000.
99330203	524008		5300	Central Office Rental	\$ 11,829.
99228103	512135		2800	SOCIAL WORKER	\$ 31,823.
				TOTAL	\$ 4,079,144.

Account #				Description		Amount	
Org.	Object	Project	DESE Function				
99341203	512800		1200	Superintendent of Schools	\$	89,225	
99341203	512971		1200	Director of Human Resources	\$	20,476	
99341206	531702		1200	SO - Advertising	\$	10,000	
99341212	577766		1200	SO - Expenses	\$	7,001	
99341232	512140		1400	Student Database Administrator	\$	62,172	
99341232	512203		1400	Asst Database Administator	\$	46,822	
99341230	512973		1400	Assistant HR Director	\$	44,409	
99341231	511100		1450	Part-Time Computer Repair Tech	\$	25,000	
99341215	512206		1400	Assistant Business Manager	\$	7,500	
99341224	575270		1400	Photocopier Purchase/Lease	\$	45,500	
99341224	570402		1400	Internet Service Provider	\$	40,000	
99341218	531702		1400	Advertising	\$	16,543	
99312905	512968		2200	Title I Director	\$	29,720	
94010103	512903		2300	Reilly Elementary Teacher	\$	318,191	
99310103	512402		2300	Long Term Substitute Teachers	\$	100,000	
99310103	512401		2300	Day-to-Day Substitute Teachers	\$	50,000	
99310305	512903		2300	STEM Resource	\$	49,124	
99337007	512301		2300	Intervention/Enrichment Tutors	\$	293,000	
99338003	512923		2300	ELL Tutors	\$	50,000	
99337007	512303		2300	Out-of-School PLC Stipends	\$	46,000	
99037006	512903		2300	LHS Lead Teacher Stipends	\$	12,600	
99310306	512903		2300	SW PROF STAFF/CLASSROOM TEACHR	\$	6,605	
99310305	512963		2300	STIPENDS- OTHER	\$	37,800	
99327003	512903		2300	Knowledge Bowl Stipends	\$	23,500	
99327006	544400		2300	Knowledge Bowl Supplies	\$	1,500	
99320104	511000		3200	School Nurses - Special Ed.	\$	36,808	
99320115	575333		2300	SPED Out of District Tuition	\$	647,699	
99310008	512963		2350	Teacher Acad. Mentors K-8	\$	134,674	
99310008	512918		2350	Teacher Acad. Mentors 9-12	\$	16,400	
99310008	518300		2350	Teacher Acad. Instructor Stipe	\$	5,000	
99337006	530002		2350	Professional Development	\$	40,000	
99311204	541000		2450	Instructional Tech. Hardware	\$	61,000	
99311204	540900		2450	Instructional Tech. Software	\$	232,000	
99241103	512102		2200	Asst Principal Bridge	\$	87,597	
99031012	577615		3500	LHS Athletics - Transportation	\$	13,000	

99347109					
99310006	575268	5300	Modular Classroom Rental	\$ 23,000.00	
99347203	576110	7000	Capital Equipment Replacement	\$ 50,000.0	
99300003	577771	2400	School Committee Suspense	\$ 1,099,278.0	
95541112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$ 1,749.4	
96010105	512111	3520	Stoklosa - Student Activities	\$ 4,683.9	
91841112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	3,485.
91510105	512111	3520	Student Body Activities	\$	3,464.
98737033	530002	2350	Rogers SA - Prof Dev	\$	3,000.
98710612	544400	2300	Rogers SA - General Supplies	\$ 2,443.6	
95041112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	3,262.
92741112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	2,028.3
93041112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	3,652.
98541112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	4,844.
98841112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	3,422.
97510112	544400	2300	McAuliffe SA - General Supplies	\$	1,187.
97537075	530002	2350	McAuliffe SA - Prof Dev	\$	1,100.
97510104	512111	3520	McAuliffe - Student Activities	\$	1,100.
92037020	530002	2350	Lincoln SA - Prof Dev	\$	3,492.
94037040	530002	2350	Reilly SA - Prof Dev	\$	2,240.
94010112	544400	2300	Reilly SA - General Supplies	\$	2,240.
98037080	530002	2350	Murkland SA - Prof Dev	\$	3,512.
90237002	530002	2350	Bailey SA - Prof Dev	\$	3,429.
98441112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$ 3,701.12	
91237012	530002	2350	McAvinnue SA - Prof Dev	\$ 2,429.29	
91241112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$ 1,000.00	
98610624	541000	2450	Robinson SA - Technology Exp	\$ 3,000.00	
98637033	530002	2350	Robinson SA - Prof Dev	\$	1,558.
98941112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	4,795.
99010718	544400	2300	LHS SA - General Supplies	\$ 16,990.66	
99037050	530002	2350	LHS SA - Prof Dev	\$	5,000.
98341112	512111	2250	Student Body Activities	\$	3,561.
93610114	512111	3520	Pawtucket - Student Activities	\$	2,000.
93637036	530002	2350	Pawtucket - Prof Dev	\$	1,624.
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		nee the hudget	TOTAL	5 4,	,079,144.

Reason for Transfer: Corrective actions to balance the budget

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$4,079,144; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED



9.III. Donation Acceptance for Lowell STEM Clubs

Robin Desmond, Assistance Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment informed the Committee that the Lowell Kinetics Sculpture Race has committed funds in support of Lowell Public Schools' STEM clubs in the amount of \$1,000.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to accept a donation for Lowell STEM Clubs; seconded by Ms. Martin. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

10. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

10.I. Trip- Hyannis, LHS

Permission for Athletic Director David Lezenski to attend the Annual MSSADA conference to be held on March 26, 2019 through March 29, 2019 in Hyannis, MA. There is no charge for the conference and Mr. Lezenski will cover all other associated expenses.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve the convention/conference request; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11.I. Letter of Appreciation to Jeffrey Bilby for His 40 Years of Service to the LPS

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the communication and to place it on file; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

12. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

12.I. UTL-Donated Sick Days

The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate seven [7] Sick Leave Days to Sandra Levesque, Morey School Paraprofessional.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED



13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Doherty made a motion to recess at 9:26 p.m., and to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Non-Union Personnel, as well as an update and consideration relative to a claim for reimbursement, of which open discussion may detrimentally affect the School Committee's position and to adjourn from Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Lay. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

13.I. Agenda Items:

- a. Non-Union Personnel:
- 1. Update and consideration in regard to negotiations related to principal contracts;
- 2. Update and consideration relative to a claim for reimbursement;
- 3. Update and discussion relative to Interim Assistant Superintendent Turner's contract provisions and expiration of her current contract;
- 4. Update and discussion relative to Acting Superintendent Jeannine Durkin's contract provisions and expiration of her current contract.



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Ms. Doherty made a motion to recess at 9:26 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Lay. 6 yeas, 1 absent Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent and Acting Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

JMD/mes